

# Preparing Vermont Learners for Success Today and Beyond

Vermont State Board of Education  
FY 2011 Budget Recommendations

February 2010

[www.education.vermont.gov/net/html/pubs/budget\\_book\\_11.html](http://www.education.vermont.gov/net/html/pubs/budget_book_11.html)



# State Board of Education

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**Fayneese Miller, Chair** - South Burlington

(Term: 2006-2012)

660-7141/Fayneese.Miller@uvm.edu

**Ruth Stokes, Co-Vice Chair** - Williston

(Term: 2005-2011)

879-7460/rstokes123@aol.com

**Kathy Larsen, Co-Vice Chair** - Wilmington

(Term: 2007-2013)

464-2263/KLarsen.007@gmail.com

**Donald Collins** - Swanton

(Term: 2009-2015)

868-7975/dec\_vtpartners@yahoo.com

**John Hall** - West Danville

(Term: 2009-2015)

684-3355/hallnapa@kingcon.com

**Robert Kelley** - Brandon

(Term: 2009-2011)

247-3452/Yank500@yahoo.com

**Judith Livingston** - Manchester

(Term: 2009-2015)

362-1949/judylivingston@comcast.net

**Alex Melville** - Woodstock

(Term: 2008-2010)

457-3353/fencemeister@mac.com

**Stephan Morse** - Newfane

(Term: 2009-2011)

365-4255/stephan@sover.net

**Brian Vachon** - Middlesex

(Term: 2007-2013)

229-4441/BrianVachon@comcast.net

## Department of Education

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120 State Street /Montpelier, VT 05620-2501/828-3135/www.education.vermont.gov

**Armando Vilaseca**

Commissioner of Education

(802) 828-3135

**Rae Ann Knopf**, Deputy Commissioner

of Transformation & Innovation

828-5101/rae.knopf@state.vt.us

**Bill Talbott**, Chief Financial Officer

Finance & Administration

828-0470/bill.talbott@state.vt.us

**Mark Oettinger**, General Counsel

828-3135/mark.oettinger@state.vt.us

**Marta Cambra**, Director

Educator Quality

828-6543/marta.cambra@state.vt.us

**Deborah Quackenbush**, Director

General Supervision & Monitoring

828-5877/deborah.quackenbush@state.vt.us

**Lisa Gauvin**, Director

Information Technology

828-3719/lisa.gauvin@state.vt.us

**John Fischer**, Co-Director

Integrated Support for Learning

828-0488/john.fischer@state.vt.us

**Karin Edwards**, Co-Director

Integrated Support for Learning

828-5118/karin.edwards@state.vt.us

**Gail Taylor**, Director

Standards & Assessment

828-5158/gail.taylor@state.vt.us

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## **Message from the State Board Chair and Commissioner**

We are submitting this FY2011 budget during a time of continued economic hardship on the local, state, national and international level. Over the past year we have seen state budgets reduced, revenues struggling to recover, and the loss of employment for many in the education field. At the same time an influx of federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds is providing opportunities for schools to continue critical programs.

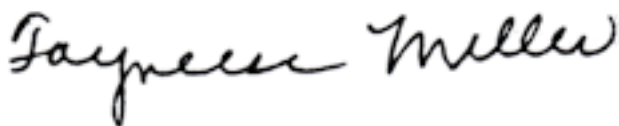
With this in mind the Board and department continue the Transformation of Education effort, which is designed to provide the best education possible for students in the 21st century. Success stories can be found across the state as schools change the way they deliver education in a way that meets the individual needs and talents of students, keeps more students in school, and engages those who may have previously been considered unreachable. In this way we will positively affect the education of our children and the prosperity of our state.

As we move forward in these challenging economic times it is more imperative than ever that everyone focuses their efforts on improving instruction for all Vermont students. Currently we are reorganizing the department to align with our model of a statewide system of school support. This is a way of realigning our resources with the changing needs of schools to ensure all schools, and therefore all students, can be given the support they need to be successful. Following the loss of 41 positions (or 20 percent of our staff) in the last 18 months, and the need to refocus our priorities, we look forward to better serving the field in this restructured environment.

During this process, the State Board is also rewriting its five-year strategic plan as required by statute. This plan is being heavily influenced by two important documents that have been the focus of the Board for the last few months: *Roots of Success: Effective Practices in Vermont Schools*, and the Education Transformation Policy Commission's *Opportunity to Learn: Defining Vermont Education for a New Generation of Learners*. *Roots of Success*, the result of months of work by department staff and volunteers from the field, uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative research to identify the characteristics common to effective schools. Through a large-scale survey of more than 2,000 Vermont teachers in 87 schools across the state, as well as intensive site visits to three schools that are "beating the odds" (schools whose Reading and Mathematics scores on state assessments defy expectations and exceed those of other schools with similar demographics), the panel discovered a set of attitudes and beliefs, as well as specific school practices, that are associated with student success, particularly those students from low socioeconomic status.

As the title implies, the Transformation Policy Commission's report focuses on how every student can attain 21st century skills when provided with focused and personalized opportunities for learning. The report is organized into five policy sections and addresses many specific policy actions, including 21st century skills and revising the Vermont Framework, multiple ways of learning, learning outside of school, greater interdisciplinary learning, routine early college opportunities, learning focused on deep understanding of concepts, proficiency-based grading and graduation and true personalization. The recommendations also address setting new standards for education quality and educator quality, as well as recommendations for education redistricting as a means of achieving greater efficiency and economy.

We hope you find this document helpful in moving our joint work forward. Thank you for considering our request.



Fayneese Miller  
State Board Chair



Armando Vilaseca  
Commissioner

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## ***Budget Recommendations & Summaries***

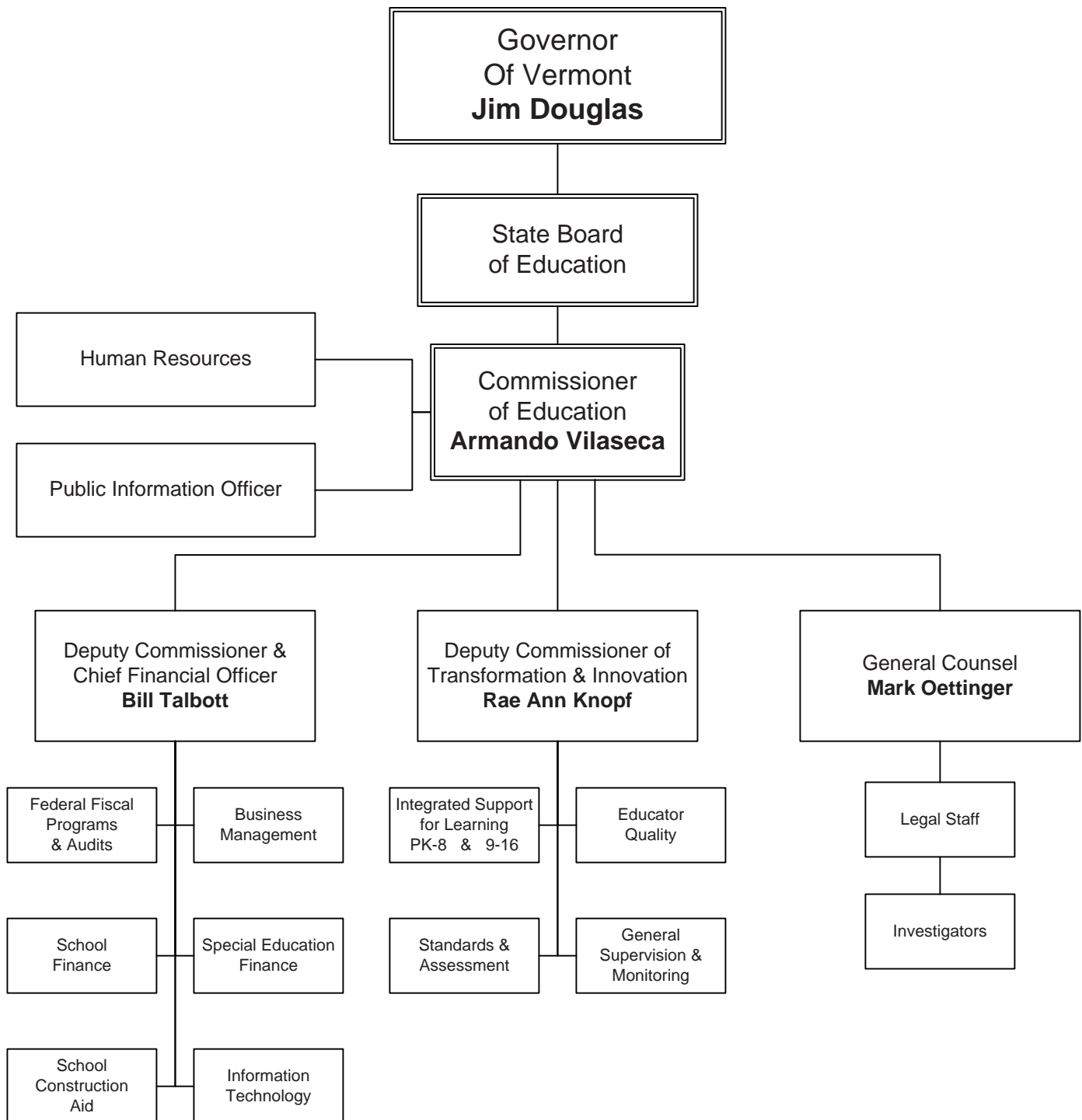
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# Organizational Chart

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# Supporting Schools & Educators

	FY 09	FY 10*
	School Year 2008-2009	School Year 2009-2010
<b>Public Schools and Private Academies</b>		
Elementary (K-6) .....	159	156
Secondary (7-12) .....	55	55
Combined (Elementary & Secondary) .....	97	98
Private Academies acting as public schools .....	4	4
<b>Total Public Schools.....</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>313</b>
Technical Centers .....	15	15
<b>Total Public Schools &amp; Technical Centers .....</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>328</b>
<b>Independent Schools &amp; Programs</b>		
Approved Independent Schools.....	93	92
Approved Kindergartens .....	4	2
Recognized Independent Schools .....	41	39
State-operated Facilities .....	1	1
Approved Tutorials.....	2	2
Approved Pregnant and Parenting Programs.....	1	1
<b>Total Independent Schools &amp; Approved Programs .....</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Public Education Governing &amp; Administrative Entities</b>		
Town, City & Incorporated School Districts		
(including 12 supervisory districts).....	239	239
Union School Districts (includes four unified union districts).....	39	39
Interstate School Districts .....	2	2
<b>Total School Districts .....</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>280</b>
Technical Center School Districts .....	3	3
Supervisory Unions.....	46	46
Joint Contract Schools.....	5	4
Gores & Unorganized Towns .....	9	9
<b>Total Public Education Governing &amp; Administrative Entities.....</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>342</b>
<b>Public School Administrators</b>		
Superintendents .....	61	57
Principals .....	309	313
Vocational/Tech. Center Directors.....	26	27
Business Managers .....	64	62
Special Education Directors.....	87	89
<b>Total Public School Administrators.....</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>548</b>
<b>Teachers (FTE) .....</b>	<b>8,855</b>	<b>8,728</b>
<b>School Boards .....</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>285</b>
<b>Local School Board Members .....</b>	<b>1,444</b>	<b>1,444</b>

\*Estimated numbers as of January 2010, subject to change

# Supporting Learners

	<b>FY 09</b>	<b>FY 10*</b>
	<b>School Year</b>	<b>School Year</b>
	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>
<b>Publicly Funded Students</b> (Enrolled as of October 1)		
Vermont Public Schools .....	89,547	88,342
Vermont Approved Independent Schools .....	1,024	1,026
Vermont Private Academies .....	2,202	2,089
Out-of-State Schools .....	905	900
Vermont State Agency and Other .....	229	279
<b>Total Publicly Funded Students</b> .....	<b>93,907</b>	<b>92,636</b>
<b>Public School Enrollment</b>		
<b>K-12</b> .....	<b>85,041</b>	<b>83,736</b>
Early Education (Pre-K) .....	3,689	3,776
Essential Early Education* .....	1,043	1,054
<i>*Children ages 3 to 5, excluding those enrolled in kindergarten programs</i>		
<b>Total Public School Enrollment</b> .....	<b>89,773</b>	<b>88,566</b>
Academies Serving as Public Schools.....	2,719	2,567
Approved Independent (K-12).....	7,365	7,342
Recognized Independent (K-12) .....	1,272	1,108
Home Study (K-12) .....	2,035	2,128
Approved Independent Kindergartens .....	113	68
<b>Total Pre-K-12 Enrollment</b> .....	<b>103,277</b>	<b>101,779</b>
<b>Technical &amp; Adult Education Enrollment (categories not mutually exclusive)</b>		
Technical Centers.....	5,697	5,625
Adults - Daytime Courses .....	117	126
Adults - Evening Courses .....	4,846	4,333
Adult Education & Literacy.....	7,375	7,205
GED Certificates Granted (FY10 through 2nd quarter).....	1,917	841
Education & Training - Criminal Offenders.....	232	218
Adult Diploma Program (FY10 through 2nd quarter) .....	576	335
High School Completion (FY10 through 2nd quarter) .....	636	573
<b>Student Support Programs Enrollment (categories not mutually exclusive)</b>		
Special Education (ages 3-21) .....	14,011	14,024
Act 230 Instructional Support.....	9,469	9,721
Title I.....	31,875	33,469
Title I (Preschool) .....	1,033	1,156
Migrant Education .....	485	448
Limited English Proficiency (LEP).....	1,650	1,800
Neglected and/or Delinquent .....	717	750
Homeless .....	833	887
Even Start - Children.....	106	70
Even Start - Adult.....	90	61